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DEMOCRATIC
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HITLER'S GENERALS

All West German Commanders Served Nazis

Every single one of the generals and admirals commanding the West Germany armed forces today held a responsible position in Hitler's forces, according to a survey conducted by the Committee for German Unity in Berlin. Not one of these commanders, 137 in number, has an anti-Hitler record, or has disavowed the part he played in waging Hitler's war of aggression.

Seven of the generals and admirals on the active list in West Germany today have either served terms of imprisonment imposed by allied courts for war crimes which they committed, or are named on allied war criminal lists.

On August 8th 1945 the Big Four signed an agreement establishing the International Military Tribunal. Article 6 of this agreement lays down that the Tribunal should have the power to try and punish persons who had committed crimes against peace, war crimes and crimes against humanity. The same article provided that "leaders, organisers, instigators and accomplices participating in the formulation or execution of a common plan or conspiracy to commit any of the foregoing crimes are responsible for all acts performed by any persons in the execution of such plan." The Committee for German Unity officially stated that evidence was available that nearly all the present West German admirals and generals fell under the terms of this paragraph.

Here are just a few of the details of the careers of some of the lesser-known of these nazi commanders:

Lieutenant General Friedrich Foertsch, today Deputy Chief of Staff, Planning, at NATO HQ. Under Hitler Chief of General Staff of the 18th Army, and after the war served ten years of a 25 year war crimes sentence in the Soviet Union.

General Joachim Freyer, today West German representative on NATO Central European Command. Under Hitler colonel on the Army General Staff.

Admiral Heinrich Gerlach, today commander of the West German Baltic Fleet. Under Hitler he was Chief of Staff of Hitler's Navy.

Major General Martin Harlinghausen, today commander of the Northern Group of the West German Air Force. Under Hitler he was Lieutenant General in the Luftwaffe, and decorated by Hitler specifically for his part in bombing Britain.

Major General Heinrich Hax, today deputy commander of the West German 3rd Army Corps. Under Hitler he was general staff chief of the 56th Army Corps, and after the war served ten years of a 25 year war crimes sentence in the Soviet Union.

Admiral Wolfgang Kaehler, today commander of the Baltic sector in Kiel. Under Hitler gunnery officer of the battleship "Scharnhorst", later commander of the cruiser "Emden".

General Hannes Trautloft, today commander of West German Air Force Training Schools. Under Hitler he served as a "volunteer" in the Condor Legion which fought for Franco in Spain, and personally participated in the bombing of Madrid.

(Further biographical data on the commanders of the West German armed forces will be presented in coming numbers of GERMAN REPORT.)

Famous Last Words

But mate – no one's gonna be mad enough to start an H-bomb war . . .

(see next page)

World's First Egg Mine

The world's first "egg mine" with an annual production of over five million eggs has been installed in worked-out galleries of the Berlepsch salt mine at Stassfurt in the German Democratic Republic.

The eggs are provided by 35,000 laying hens now kept in a large chicken farm installed 1200 feet underground. Accomodation for a further 100,000 roasting chickens is now being installed: this part of the installation will soon be turning out 450 tons of high-grade poultry for the table annually.

Why has this big farm been installed underground? The reasons given by Herr Frischbier, manager of the farm, are:

1. The temperature in the shaft is constant both winter and summer at 64° to 68° F., an ideal temperature for chickens. Big bills for winter heating are saved.

2. The shafts in the salt mine provide natural hen houses, which only need to be divided by wire netting. The new-style chicken farm only costs about one-tenth the sum which would have been necessary if it had been built above ground.

*

The underground chicken farm is not the first "factory" to be installed in the empty galleries of the salt mine. During the Second World War the nazis installed a bomb-proof plane factory here, staffed by slave labourers brought from all corners of Europe. At the war's end, the nazis were planning to establish a huge underground concentration camp in the shaft.

Famous Last Words

But you don't understand, old chap – it's not a weapon, it's a d e t - t e r - e n t . . .

(see next page)

GERMANY & BERLIN

Proposals Summarised

The past six months have been marked by dozens of proposals and counter-proposals on the problem of Germany, with particular reference to a Peace Treaty and the Berlin question. Here is a short summary of the most important proposals:

September 5th 1958: The German Democratic Republic proposed to the Big Four that they should establish a commission to start work on the terms of a peace treaty for Germany, and suggested to the West German Government that an all-German commission should work out a common standpoint on a peace treaty and reunification. The proposals were ignored in the west.

November 27th 1958: The Soviet Government officially proposed that all occupation forces should be withdrawn from both East and West Berlin, and that West Berlin should be converted into a demilitarised Free City, guaranteed by both German states, the Big Four, and possibly also by the UN. After a six-month period for the consideration of this proposal the Soviet Union would turn over to the German Democratic Republic those functions in connection with Berlin still exercised by the Soviet forces in Germany. (These functions mainly concern the supervision of western military traffic between West Germany and West Berlin.)

December 14th 1958: Britain, USA, France and West Germany announced that they would not accept any repudiation by the Soviet Union of its functions with regard to Berlin, or the transfer of such functions to the German Democratic Republic. They insisted on the maintenance of the status quo in West Berlin.

December 18th 1958: The NATO Council, meeting in Paris, announced its full association with the statement of December 14th, thus drawing all fifteen NATO member nations into the Berlin controversy.

December 21st 1958: The German Democratic Republic called the NATO statement "flagrant interference", since NATO was not involved in the Berlin question.

December 31st 1958: Britain, France and the USA told the Soviet Union that western occupation garrisons would remain in West Berlin. They would not deal with the authorities of the German Democratic Republic instead of the Soviet authorities in Berlin.

January 5th 1959: The West German Government informed the Soviet Union it shared the opinions of the three western powers on Berlin. The note claimed that "the elimination of militarism and National Socialism . . . have been the main foundation of the policy of the Federal Republic since its foundation."

January 10th 1959: The Soviet Union proposed that all countries which fought Germany in World War Two should sign a peace treaty with the two German states, or with a German confederation. The Soviet Union tabled the draft of a peace treaty, providing that Germany should be neutralised, should leave the NATO and Warsaw Pacts, and should be banned the possession of nuclear weapons, rockets and submarines; the existing frontiers of Germany should be recognised as finally valid, West Berlin should be a demilitarised Free City, and all foreign troops should leave Germany one year after the signing of the treaty; human rights should be guaranteed, but nazi and neo-nazi organisations banned.

February 16th 1959: The western powers informed the Soviet Union that they were ready to attend a Foreign Ministers Conference on the problem of Germany in all its aspects as raised in the recent exchange of notes. The western notes suggested that "German advisers" should be invited to the conference, and official western comments interpreted this as meaning that official delegations from the German Democratic Republic and West Germany should attend the conference.

M. P.s speak with Ulbricht

Five British M. P.s, all of the Labour Party, visited Berlin in the middle of February. The group, which included Mrs. Lena Jeger, Sydney Silverman, Malcolm K. Macmillan, Leo Abse and Fred T. Willey, had a talk with Walter Ulbricht, First Deputy Prime Minister, on February 14th.

THAT PHONEY "BLOCKADE"

By the Editor

The problem of Germany is a tough one and it is going to take goodwill and statesmanship to solve it. The task of reaching a solution is not made any easier by the bedevilment of the issue by many politicians and newspapers which should show a greater sense of responsibility.

One of the main methods of spreading alarm and despondency recently has been the repetition of stories that "the Russians" are threatening to blockade West Berlin.

Sceptical readers may not believe my assurance that no such threat has been made in any form. Let me therefore quote a summary of the Berlin situation made recently by Walter Lippmann, respected American political commentator. Writing in the "New York Herald Tribune" (Paris Edition) on February 14th this year, Mr Lippmann said:

"Let us take Berlin for a concrete example, remembering, of course, that it is only the focal point of the whole larger German problem. At present there are two streams of traffic between West Berlin and West Germany. One, which is much the larger, is civilian traffic. This traffic is regulated by an agreement between the West German government and the East German government, and it is by this traffic that the civilian population of West Berlin lives and does its business. The other traffic is military. It is between the British, French, and American forces in West Germany and their garrisons in West Berlin. This traffic is regulated by Allied agreement with the Soviet Union.

"Moscow has now said that if there is no other negotiation about the status of Berlin, it will on May 27th turn over to the East German government its authority over the military traffic. If this is done, it will mean that at the checkpoints on the highways and railroads and canals, Allied military traffic will be met by East German rather than by Soviet officials.

"The immediate and specific questions about Berlin are (1) what will we do when we meet these East German officials; and (2) what will the East German officials do about our military traffic?

"This is where the difference between an 'inflexible' and a 'flexible' policy shows itself. The inflexibles say that we do not recognise the East German government, and that we cannot, therefore, allow them to have anything to do with our traffic to Berlin. The flexibles reply that as long as no one interferes with our traffic to Berlin, it does not make any difference whether the official who stamps the paper wears an East German or a Soviet uniform. They add that if Dr Adenauer can allow East German officials to stamp his papers for the civilian traffic, he is in no position to insist that President Eisenhower be more inflexible than he is himself.

"In speculating about the use of force to keep open access to Berlin, the first question to be decided is whether we ought to be ready to go to war if we meet an East German official at the checkpoints on the highway . . . The flexibles say that to announce you will fight about the official at the checkpoint is not strong policy but a foolish one, and because it is foolish it is weak. It is weak because the people of the Western world cannot conceivably be united to fight a world war on such an idiotic issue.

"This flexible position is a strong one . . . We are indifferent to the formalities, which do not matter as long as access to West Berlin is open. We keep alive our real objective, which is not to maintain West Berlin as an island within East Germany, but to restore its status as the capital city to which all parts of Germany must have equal access."

And that is precisely the aim of the Soviet Union and the German Democratic Republic, the aim which has been defined very clearly in recent diplomatic notes and memoranda.

And here is another opinion on the matter, a British one this time. Mr Hugh Gaitskell, Labour Party leader, speaking in the House of Commons on February 19th, said:

"This issue (Berlin) has been accepted by some people as being a matter either of accepting what Mr Khrushchov has proposed, or of going to war. I entirely disagree that these are the alternatives. I do not believe that we need to look at it in such stark terms. We should remember that nobody has threatened armed aggression . . . Nor has there been any threat of blockade . . . What has been threatened is not a blockade, still less a war, but the handing over after six months to the East German Government the responsibility for maintaining communications between the West and Berlin. If this were to happen, it would not of itself involve either the use of force or any attempt at a blockade . . ."

I have quoted Mr Walter Lippmann and Mr Hugh Gaitskell at such length because they are two responsible persons in the western world who show that they have not allowed themselves to be fooled by the "blockade" mongers.

Don't let them fool you, either.

Harry Bridges Visits Berlin

Harry Bridges, President of the "International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union", from the West Coast of USA and Canada, visited the headquarters of the Free German Trade Union Federation in Berlin on February 16th to 18th.

In talks with union leaders of Democratic Germany, he collected facts on the living standards of German workers and on recent developments in the trade union movement here. He was accompanied by his colleague William Glazier.

Berlin's Youth Enlarge Airport

Commercial jet liners such as the TU 104 will be able to land at East Berlin's Schoenefeld Airport after the young people of that city are finished enlarging it. This job has been taken over by the Free German Youth organisation as its main project in Berlin. Young workers and engineers will begin work in early March on this improvement in the city's air connections with the world.

Famous Last Words

After all, perhaps it is God's will that the human race should be destroyed by the bomb . . .

(see next page)

FIVE-MINUTE GUIDE TO DEMOCRATIC GERMANY

What is the G.D.R.?

Born in October 1949 in the eastern third of Germany, it includes the old areas of Saxony, Thuringia, Mecklenburg and Brandenburg. These are now divided into 14 districts, each centered on a larger city or town. The best-known are Leipzig, Halle, Dresden, Magdeburg, Rostock and Karl-Marx-Stadt (the new name for Chemnitz). The capital is Berlin, of which the eastern part is administered by the authorities of Democratic Germany. The frontiers are: the Federal German Republic, Poland and Czechoslovakia. In the north is the Baltic Sea.

How is the G.D.R ruled?

The main governing body is the People's Chamber, elected every four years (with 400 Deputies plus 66 Deputies without voting power from Berlin). They belong to five different parties and several organisations (the trade unions, the youth and women's associations, the cooperatives and the cultural union). Their main work is done in committee. The People's Chamber also chooses the President. This post has been occupied since the Republic's founding by Wilhelm Pieck, a veteran of the trade union, Communist and antifascist movements since the beginning of the century. The strongest party in the People's Chamber (the Socialist Unity Party) chooses the Prime Minister who selects his Cabinet according to the relative strength of the parties and organisations. The ministers must be approved by the People's Chamber and are responsible to it. The Prime Minister is Otto Grotewohl, also a man with a long anti-nazi record, who belonged to the Social Democratic Party till its merger with the Communist Party to form the Socialist Unity Party in East Germany (1946).

The 14 districts, the counties and the townships are governed along the same general lines. Top sovereignty in all questions, however, local as well as national, lies with the People's Chamber.

A main goal of the government is to involve as many people as possible in political activities of various kinds — from the local school board to the fight for peace.

Famous Last Words

Well, I'm sure the Prime Minister and all those Generals must know more about it than we.

(see next page)

What is the economic position of the G.D.R.?

At the end of the war this part of Germany was in a weak position. Lacking such centres of industry as the Ruhr, less industrial in general than West Germany, very heavily bombed and responsible for paying considerable reparations, the beginnings were very difficult. Embargo restrictions did not make the task easier.

Now, however, the difficult struggle to make economic ends meet is beginning to pay off. Various industries have been rebuilt — or built up from scratch. Modern machinery of many kinds, precision and optical equipment, ships and many other items are produced on a large scale. Industry is based on energy from soft coal (lignite), one of the few raw materials abundant here. But this base of soft coal has enabled the country to push up to the fifth place in European industrial production. In a few years, a large port in Rostock will be completed and a pipeline will bring oil from the Soviet Union, thus enabling the economy to make another big spurt ahead.

PLANS FOR 1959

1959 will be marked in the German Democratic Republic by big steps forward in all fields of production, with particular emphasis on consumer goods. Here are some of the main points of the economic plan for the current year:

... Industrial production will be 11% higher than in 1958, as the result of technical improvements, automation, and capital investments of nearly 15 thousand million marks – as much as in 1954 and 1955 together.

... 91,000 new apartments will be completed, nearly 30,000 more than in 1958.

... Soft coal production will reach 225 million tons – eight million tons more than 1958, and by far the greatest soft coal production in the world.

... There will be far more consumer goods in the shops: TV sets 314,000 (1958 – 176,000 sets), refrigerators 82,000 (1958 – 52,000), shoes 24,000,000 pairs (1958 – 18,600,000 pairs).

... Food in the shops will grow in quantity and variety: 20% more fish, 25% more fruit, nearly 504% more coffee.

What about the living standard?

There has been no lack of reports about poverty here in Democratic Germany. It is true that times were indeed difficult at first, and that many things are still lacking, or lacking in quantity, such as cars, refrigerators, certain imported fruits and other items. Many families are still living in cramped quarters. But anyone who revisits this country after ten, five or even two years is amazed at the changes. The ration cards have been forgotten; the long queues, once such a regular feature, are now very infrequent; people are dressed better and have many comforts and even luxuries. TV sets, for example, are already fairly common, although this industry is really just getting under way. Many prices have been reduced in the last few years — none have gone up except for alcoholic beverages (other than beer and wine). The basic necessities of life have always been

kept as inexpensive as possible — rents, carfare, potatoes, bread, coal and the like. Also important is the wonderfully all-inclusive health insurance, the lack of all unemployment, the school and scholarship system — colleges are tuition-free and 90% of the students also receive scholarships high enough to live on. Also worth mentioning are the vacations for union members — holiday costs for two weeks are 30 marks (about 2 or 3 days pay). These advantages and others help make up for some items, such as clothing, which are still rather dear. The present goal is to overtake the West German per capita consumption in most consumer goods by 1961 — a goal which has already been reached in such items as butter, sugar, cameras, etc.

What is the position of women?

The constitution of the German Democratic Republic lays down the principle of full equality between men and women.

In practice this means that in the factories, offices and agricultural cooperatives the principle of equal pay for equal work is rigidly adhered to. Women are forbidden to do certain heavy or dangerous jobs, but otherwise every job in Democratic Germany is open to women.

What about religion?

The constitution of the German Democratic Republic states: "Every citizen enjoys the right of full freedom of belief and conscience. The unhindered practice of religion is guaranteed by the constitution." Nobody may be obliged to disclose his religious beliefs, and the right to serve in public office is independent of religious belief.

How is foreign trade?

It trades with over one hundred countries. The largest amount of trade is with the socialist countries; it is the first ranking trade partner of the Soviet Union, for example. But trade is developing with almost all countries; government-level trade treaties exist among others with India, Indonesia, Finland, the United Arab Republic, Sudan and Lebanon and on other levels with Belgium, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Uruguay, etc. Britain is the latest country to make a trade agreement with Democratic Germany.

Want to Know Some More?

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What is sold? The list extends from toys and Christmas tree decorations to chemical fertilisers and printing plants. Photographic and optical supplies, precision instruments and porcelain and certain textiles (lace, "perlon" lingerie) are perhaps the best-known.

What are the main policies?

At the beginning, the main policy was to get rid of all nazis who had responsible positions of any kind. This was carried out long ago. The worst criminals were punished, the rest dropped from government office, the school system, etc. The next policy was to nationalise the factories belonging to nazis or other war criminals, and to divide up the big landed estates among the small farmers and agricultural workers. Another point was to open up education to all.

After these and other measures were accomplished, the building of a new socialist economy was commenced, a policy still on the agenda. The nationally owned factories are being rebuilt, modernised and mechanised; automation is being introduced. The small farmers are being encouraged to come together to work collective, highly mechanised farms. The school system and the network of social institutions — nurseries, vacation homes, old age homes and clinics are being expanded. Prices are cut wherever possible. In other words, everything is being done to improve life.

In foreign policy, the underlying policy is one of maintaining peace, in order to accomplish the above goals and prevent the destruction of all that has been built up thus far.

Although diplomatic relations have previously only been possible with the socialist countries, the German Democratic Republic has been striving for a more normal relationship with any country willing to (examples: Prime Minister Grotewohl's recent trip to the United Arab Republic, Irak and India, membership in a long list of international organisations, etc.). One principle which is always maintained is the support of the colonial peoples and those newly freed from colonialism. Another important point is the constant warning about the danger of a new attack on world peace by the old and new militarists and nazis in West Germany. The German Democratic Republic supports a peace treaty to eliminate this danger and a confederation with West Germany as a step towards eventual reunification into a united, neutral Germany without atomic weapons or connections to military treaty groups.

Famous Last Words

Me...? Oh! I leave all that sort of thing to my husband...

(see next page)

ALPHABET SOUP

Abbreviations in the German Democratic Republic

Like most countries in the Twentieth Century, Democratic Germany has developed a host of abbreviations which are understood by its citizens but by practically nobody else. Here are a few of the most important ones.

DDR = Deutsche Demokratische Republic = German Democratic Republic

This country is totally invisible to some people, and is called the East Zone, the Soviet Zone or "Pankow" (a Berlin suburb) by others. The German Democratic Republic really does exist, however: it is as big as Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland together and has about 17,500,000 inhabitants. It was formed (from the post-war Soviet Occupation Zone) in October 1949 shortly after the three western zones had formed the German Federal Republic. Today it occupies fifth place in Europe in industrial production, which makes it increasingly difficult to overlook.

HO = Handelsorganisation = Trading Organisation

This is the name for all nationally owned retail stores, from greengrocers to car and department stores. Other types of stores are chiefly the "Konsum" or cooperative stores (co-ops) and the privately owned stores. In 1957 their sales were divided up approximately in this way: HO — 34%; Konsum — 30%; private stores — 30%.

Note: The unfortunate abbreviation **HOG** means only HO Gaststätte, that is, a restaurant or café.

VEB = Volkseigener Betrieb = nationally-owned factory

These factories, taken over from war criminals and nazis or newly built since the war, account for about 90% of production; the other factories are cooperative or privately owned. Most of their profits go to the government for use in social projects, new building investments, flats, education and the like; the remainder remains in the factory for the use of the employees and investments. Among the new VEB plants which had to be built up almost from scratch after the war are those in the steel, coke, auto, ship-building and aircraft industries.

DIA = Deutscher Innen- und Außenhandel = German Commerce, Domestic and Foreign

The national trade organisation responsible for all import and export. Democratic Germany now trades, under DIA auspices, with over 100 countries, many on the basis of regular government trade treaties.

LPG = Landwirtschaftliche Produktionsgenossenschaft = agricultural production cooperative

This term, almost as unwieldy in English as in German, just had to be abbreviated. It means in practice a collective farm. Since 1952, private farmers have been voluntarily bringing their small plots together and forming large efficient farms which can take advantage of the latest agricultural machinery. Such LPGs now cover about 37% of all arable land. They are supplied with machinery by the MTS (see below).

MTS = Maschinen- und Traktoren-Station = Machine and Tractor Station

There are about 600 such stations in the DDR; they do the mechanical farm work for the LPGs and the private farmers and publicise the newest scientific improvements in agriculture.

SED = Sozialistische Einheitspartei = Socialist Unity Party

This, the leading party in the DDR, was formed in 1946 when the Communist Party and the Social Democratic Party in East Germany joined together, after their common fight against Hitler. The SED forms the government of the DDR together with the other four parties, the **NDPD** (National Democratic Party), the **DBD** (Peasants' Party), the **LDPD** (Liberal Democratic Party) and the **CDU** (Christian Democratic Union). Members of the government are drawn from these parties in proportion to their strength in the People's Chamber. The four last-named parties consist largely of small businessmen, professionals, artisans and, in one case, farmers, while the SED is made up largely of workers.

FDGB = Freier Deutscher Gewerkschaftsbund = Free German Trade Union Federation

This central trade union body consists of 20 different industrial unions. Its activities vary from safeguarding the interests of the workers in the shops to running all sorts of activities for its members — vacations, health and welfare services, childrens' holiday camps, etc.

DFD = Demokratischer Frauenbund Deutschlands = Democratic Women's Association of Germany

The women's organisation's main purpose is to fight for equal rights for women in all walks of life and to run activities interesting to women. Many points of their programme, such as equal pay for equal work, are provided for already in the constitution or in laws passed in the first years of the Republic.

FDJ = Freie Deutsche Jugend = Free German Youth

The large youth and student organisation, like the DFD represented in the People's Chamber, concerns itself with all problems of youth — at work, on the farm, in the colleges and in their free time. It also publishes various magazines and one daily newspaper.

ABF = Arbeiter-und-Bauern-Fakultät = Worker's and Farmer's Faculty

These schools, which are attached to all universities and many colleges, are for those young people from factories or farms who are delegated by their colleagues to go to college but who have not had the necessary secondary education. They are thus a mixture between a high school and a junior college; after completing studies there, the students go on to the university. As with all higher education in the DDR, students pay no tuition and receive scholarships high enough to cover living costs (except for those from families with very high incomes).

Since students with some experience in industry or agriculture have proven more mature than those coming straight from secondary school, it is now being required of all students that they spend a year working before beginning at college.

Famous Last Words

My dear it's so terrible I'm sure it'll never be used . . .

(see next page)

HOSPITAL IN VIETNAM

By Commander Edgar P. Young R. N. Retired

Vietnam is a very long way from Germany, and readers may well wonder why I should write here about a visit I paid last November and December to the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. This is because I came across there such a remarkable expression of the change of heart and outlook that has taken place amongst Germans (of the German Democratic Republic at any rate). I feel it is worth describing for the benefit of those who may still feel sceptical about this change.

In Hanoi, the capital of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, my programme included a visit to the Phu-Doan Hospital, which I was told had been equipped by the German Democratic Republic. In the days of the French occupation of Indo-China this was a "Native Infirmary", and was correspondingly ill-equipped and in every way primitive. If the patients were lucky they slept on beds of hard boards; otherwise they slept on the stone floor with bug-ridden straw paliasses.

As a gesture of friendship and goodwill to the Vietnamese people, faced with tremendous problems after long years of colonial exploitation and eight years of liberation war, various socialist countries volunteered to make them gifts. Prominent amongst these countries was Democratic Germany.

One of these gifts from the German Democratic Republic was the conversion of the Hanoi "Native Infirmary" into an up-to-date 500 bed hospital for orthopaedic surgery. It was a generous material gift, and no cost was spared in the provision of the most costly modern appliances for diagnosis and operation. In addition, the hospital was equipped with comfortable spring beds, hygienic mattresses, bed-linen and blankets, cooking stoves and utensils, and even knives, forks and spoons to replace the customary bamboo chopsticks since it is difficult to disinfect these satisfactorily.

Ngo Dang-Nganh, the Vietnamese surgeon who directs the hospital, showed me and my wife with great pride the operating theatre and the wards of the hospital, now run entirely by Vietnamese personnel. He told us how impressed a medical delegation from neighbouring Cambodia had been, and how the Cambodians had contrasted the equipment with that in a corresponding hospital presented by the Americans to Phnom-Penh, their capital, a hospital which had many of the characteristics of a "native infirmary".

The author and his wife in the operating theatre

The thing which had impressed the Vietnamese most had been the way in which this costly gift had been made. The equipment for the hospital arrived escorted by a team of doctors and nurses from Democratic Germany. The team supervised the installation of the equipment, and then taught the Vietnamese staff how to use it.

When the German doctors and nurses arrived they found themselves confronted by a veritable Augean stable. Instead of sitting back until the Vietnamese cleared up the mess, they got down on their hands and knees, notwithstanding the hot and humid climate, scoured out the old infirmary, repainted it. Only then did they get the Vietnamese to instal the equipment so that they might learn how to do it for themselves in future.

At the end of it all they handed over Phu-Doan Hospital to the Vietnamese as a model of what a surgical hospital should be.

I am writing this story because it was *Germans* who behaved thus towards the people of an Asian country less advanced than their own — clear proof that the ideas of racial-superiority, the ideas of domination and exploitation are being eradicated from the outlook of the people of the German Democratic Republic.

Famous Last Words

I'd rather the human race came to an end than be enslaved . . .

(see next page)

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

A rather appalling insight into the thinking of the younger generation in West Germany was provided recently in a West German TV magazine programme chaired by Professor Eugen Kogon, a West German liberal publicist who was held by the nazis in Buchenwald Concentration Camp and who wrote the book "The SS State" after his release.

In preparation for the programme, Professor Kogon sent out a TV reporter to interview children in the senior classes of elementary schools, grammar schools and trade schools. The reporter posed one simple question to the young people: "What do you know about Hitler?"

Here are some of the replies, as given by Professor Kogon in his TV programme on January 30th, which incidentally was the 26th anniversary of Hitler's rise to power in Germany:

"He gave work to the unemployed."

"He did a lot for the workers: he sent them on very cheap holidays."

"He looked after the mothers and the little children. I don't know if he had any other motive, but he wanted to make his people love him."

"Hitler did a lot for the German people, and things only went wrong when he went mad."

"Under Hitler a lot of things were good: there weren't any murderers like the taxi-murderers we have today, and others like people who murdered women, they were immediately liquidated."

"I think that what Hitler did was quite good, he made work for seven million unemployed, and he saw to it that the young people did not hang around like they do today."

"I think we cannot really say whether it was good or bad, we know too little about it."

"Hitler reduced the number of unemployed, but he did it by giving them work on armaments."

"He made the German people respected again in the world, and above all he ended the political chaos that ruled in the Weimar Republic."

"In foreign policy he brought Germany up to the heights again, and built the Wehrmacht, so that Germany had a better position in foreign countries."

"Immediately after the war we were told that everything had been bad, and the whole thing had been a crime. Now we hear opinions that it was fine, and the best time there ever was. But others say 'bad', and now at a time when we have the Federal Army and atom arming, and all these things, then these ideas are all active again."

"Giving National Socialism power I regard positively, since today we are free again, at least half. But if we consider the many people killed in the war — I should like to point out that half the class have no father — then we must regard the National Socialist epoch negatively."

I don't know how this collection of short quotations affects you, but it makes my blood run cold. And I would like to emphasise that I have not edited this collection of opinions: I have reproduced it just as it was given on West German TV. Of course we cannot blame the children: they are just repeating what they hear at home and in the schools. What price "re-education"?

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A couple of days later, Chancellor Adenauer gave an interview to the TV service of the British Broadcasting Corporation. One is not accustomed to a very high truth content in an Adenauer interview, but the old man outdid himself on this occasion. Asked about recent cases of anti-Semitism in West Germany, he calmly replied that they were, at least partly, due to "Communist provocation".

I shall leave the answer to this astonishing statement up to the liberal West German newspaper "Frankfurter Rundschau", which stated on February 9th: "We believe the charge that the Communists are responsible for these outrages to be untenable. In the first place, the Communists would have to reckon with the fact that such action might be detected, and then recoil on their own heads; and secondly they do not need to take any such action, since there is unfortunately quite enough latent anti-Semitism in the Federal Republic . . ."

The newspaper goes on to recall the parallel of the Reichstag Fire in February 1933. For younger readers I should explain that the Reichstag, the German Parliament, went up in flames on February 27th 1933, just before a vital General Election. Hitler immediately claimed that the Reichstag had been fired by the Communists as a signal for revolution, and the claim helped to stampede many German electors into voting for him. Later it was proved conclusively that the nazis themselves had set fire to the building. And now Adenauer, without a shadow of proof, is trying to launch a new "Reichstag Fire" stampede. Luckily, in this respect at least, public opinion in both West Germany and abroad does seem to have learned something in the past 26 years, and as far as I have been able to judge, Adenauer's sensation has had all the explosive force of a sheet of wet blotting paper.

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Just one new note about conditions in West Berlin, that famous "outpost of western democracy". At the beginning of February the West Berlin authorities were finally forced to suspend from duty 16 policemen, including several officers. During the war these policemen had served in Field Police Battalion No. 9 of the nazi Wehrmacht, a special unit the main task of which was the mass execution of "suspicious" Poles, Ukrainians and Jews in nazi-occupied eastern Europe.

At the end of the war, most of the members of the battalion were captured by the British forces and handed over to the Soviet Union. They were sentenced to terms of up to 25 years imprisonment, but released a few years ago when the Soviet Union repatriated all German prisoners in order to end, once and for all, the West German propaganda campaign about "innocent Germans in Russian prisons". Immediately after their return to West Berlin these bully boys got jobs in the police force.

Famous Last Words

Got to talk tough to 'em – only language they understand . . .

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